

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONGEN LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 983

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, CZ, ASEC

SUBJ: SOHO NEWS REPORTER DISCUSSES HER SPY DISCLOSURES WITH USUN

REF: USUN 811, 899, STATE 55654, STATE 53541

1. CHRYSTYA OLENSKA, REPORTER FOR SOHO NEWS, CAME TO U IN AFTERNOON MARCH 12 AT HER REQUEST TO DISCUSS "PROBLEMS" SHE WAS ENCOUNTERING IN CONNECTION WITH HER SPY STORIES IN SOHO NEWS. SHE TRIED GIVE IMPRESSION THAT SHE WAS BECOMING OVERWHELMED BY SITUATION CREATED AS A RESULT OF HER ARTICLES.'

2. OKENSKA STATED, IN SOMEWHAT EMOTIONAL MANNER, THAT AFTER HAVING WRITTEN FIRST TWO INSTALLMENTS OF HER STORY, SHE WAS NOT SURE SHE WOULD CONTINUE. SHE SAID THAT KONSTANTY HANFF WAS A VERY PERSISTENT PERSON, AND CONTINUALLY GAVE HER MORE NAMES TO PUBLISH. SINCE HER SERIES OF ARTICLES HAD BEGUN, SHE HAD RECEIVED A NUMBER OF LETTERS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY AS WELL AS PHONE CALLS FROM UN SECRETARIAT STAFF MEMBERS CONFIRMING THAT SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS NAMED IN HER ARTICLE WERE INDEED MEMBERS OF SOVIET INTELLIGENCE SERVICES.

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3. MISOFFS ASKED HER WHAT INTERESTS SHE AND THE SOHO NEWS BELIEVED WERE BEING SERVED BY THE PUBLICATION OF NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF ALLEGED KGB AGENTS. SHE SAID SOHO NEWS MANAGEMENT SIMPLY WANTED A GOOD SPY STORY, AND SHE HAS BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL IN FERRETING OUT INTELLIGENCE AGENTS. SHE ADDED THAT NAMES HAD ALREADY COME OUT IN EMIGRE PRESS AND HANFF WAS BOUND TO FIND SOME OUTLET FOR HIS INFORMATION. MISOFFS, WHILE MAKING CLEAR THAT IT WAS UP TO SOHO NEWS TO PUBLISH WHAT IT WISHES, POINTED OUT THAT NONE OF THE 13 SOVIETS INVOLVED HAVE BEEN FOUND TO BE IN VIOLATION OF THEIR STATUS IN THIS COUNTRY AND THAT MEDIA TARGETING OF THEIR NAMES AND ADDRESSES COULD ONLY COMPLICATE OUR TASK OF ASSURING THEIR SECURITY, AND CONCEIVABLY FURTHER STIMULATE MORE TARGETING OF AMERICANS ABROAD.

4. OLENSKA SAID SHE HAD DECIDED NOT TO PUBLISH NAMES OF FOUR CZECHS WHO ARE ALLEGEDLY WITH CZECH INTELLIGENCE. HOWEVER, SHE GAVE US THEIR NAMES AND ADDRESSES, AS FOLLOWS:

1. JAN MIKOLAJ
UN SECRETARIAT EMPLOYEE
1109 MADISON AVENUE
535-8814

2. DR. EMANUEL HAVLIK
COUNSELLOR, CZECH MISSION
345 EAST 80TH STREET
288-0260

3. JAN KROUPA
THIRD SECRETARY, CZECH MISSION
444 E. 86TH STREET
628-9623

4. MIROSLAV PLASEK
SECOND SECRETARY, CZECH MISSION
111 EAST 85TH STREET
348-1725

5. OLENSKA TOLD US SHE WAS SEEING HANFF ON MARCH 13 AND
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WOULD LET US KNOW WHAT HE HAD TO SAY.

6. FOR EUR/SOV: WE WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING WHAT LEN WILLEMS
LEARNED DURING HIS VISIT TO NEW YORK ON MARCH 11.
BENNETT

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